

Public Comment Prepared on Behalf of the California Farm  
Bureau Federation for Presentation to the Delta Vision Blue  
Ribbon Task Force, Thursday, August 30, 2007:

The California Farm Bureau Federation believes that all viable options for the Delta should remain on the table. Recent headlines proclaim an isolated canal has been “studied to death,” and that it is time for action. In reality, as highlighted at the isolated conveyance workshop held a week ago, the size, operation, cost, benefits, impacts and many other aspects of around-Delta conveyance have *not* been studied and are largely *unknown*. Also unknown and unexplored is the possibility of an optimized through-Delta solution as a potential, long-term conveyance solution for the Delta. Such a proposal exists and has been submitted to the Task Force by Dr. Russell Brown of the technical consulting firm of Jones & Stokes. We are here today to urge the State of California and each of the competing Delta initiatives to consider a *robust* through-Delta solution, substantially in the form of the proposal by Dr. Brown, as well as any “isolated” or “around-Delta” facility. Some key components of Dr. Brown’s proposal, apparently absent from a less robust and possibly less permanent version under consideration today, include *full* isolation of an Old River corridor, two fish screens on the Lower Sacramento River, and substantial improvement of a priority set of levees. We are conceptually familiar with Dr. Brown’s study, believe it offers many potential benefits and are of the opinion it deserves a fair “run for its money.” Accordingly, we respectfully ask that in the months ahead this option be examined by the State, and in the other processes, and carried forward at a level of detail comparable to any concurrent studies of an alternative mode of conveyance around the Delta.